

From: Chuck Weitzel
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/29/01 3:07pm
Subject: Microsoft's monopoly on Operating Systems

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this as a concerned citizen, one who is forced to use the Windows Operating System of the Microsoft Corporation. There is no real competition for this system due to the influence of Microsoft. I cannot see how the settlement that is proposed to remedy the antitrust violations for which Microsoft has been found guilty. The company has been found in violation, and this is supposed to be the penalty phase of the case. It appears to me that the settlement contains no penalties and in fact seems to actually advances Microsoft's operating system monopoly.

I would suggest that it would be a step in the right direction in preventing a continuation of Microsoft's monopoly that Microsoft products should be an extra-cost option in the purchase of new computers. This would permit the user who does not wish to purchase Ms (Microsoft) products to have a choice and not be forced to purchase MS operating systems. This would mean that for the price differential between a new computer with Microsoft software and one without, would clearly be a choice the customer could make. That would truly be market place competition in a meaningful way.

Also, any Microsoft networking protocols must be published in full and approved by an independent network protocol body. This would prevent Microsoft from seizing de facto control of the Internet which at this time it nearly has done.

This case is of paramount interest to the United States as a nation as well as us individual consumers as the Judge in this case has suggested. Microsoft needs to be reigned in and others permitted fair competition in the pursuit of continued advancement in the computer world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Charles H. Weitzel